

Transcription of John W. Jeffryes, Sr.'s Claim for Pension file
Transcribed by: Carla Welsh, his 5th great-granddaughter

John W. Jeffryes, Sr., was born 14 SEP 1757, Great Egg Harbor Township, Gloucester County, New Jersey, per his pension claim, and died 19 NOV 1842, Egg Harbor Township, Atlantic County, New Jersey, per Revolutionary War Pensioner's List, which very faintly has his death date written.

John served as Private in the Gloucester County New Jersey Militia during the Revolution.

John was married to Judith Steelman, daughter of Andrew Steelman, Jr., and Hannah Steelman Scull (nee Ingersoll). John and Judith are buried next to each other in Zion United Methodist Church Cemetery, Zion Road, Egg Harbor Township, Atlantic County, New Jersey. Judith's headstone is engraved correctly, but John's headstone is engraved wrong, with his birth and death dates off by about 2 years each, and his last name was engraved wrong as "Jeffers."

This record can be accessed from "U.S., Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, 1800-1900," digital images, *Ancestry.com*:

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/1995/images/MIUSA1775D_135990-00674

SERVICE: NEW JERSEY, JEFFRYES or JEFFREYS, JOHN, NUMBER S4440, CARDED

Gloucester County: On this 14th/21st day of February in the year of our Lord 1833, before the subscriber, one of the Judges of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas, County of Gloucester, personally came Thompson Price, being duly sworn according to the Law. He is in his 87th year, was born in Shrewsbury, in the county of Monmouth, in the state of New Jersey, and removed to Egg Harbor near Somers Point in the county in his one and 20th year, where he has lived ever since. He recollects the Egg Harbor Guard. They were stationed to protect the extensive line of coast from Cape May to Sandy Hook from the depredations of the Enemy's Cruisers, to prevent their landing and molesting the inhabitants, and to protect the inhabitants from the Refugees, who came there in great numbers on account of the sparse settlement of the place. "We were obliged to be constantly on the watch. Wherever a British Rebel appeared on the coast we were obliged to watch her to prevent her landing or corresponding with the Refugees." He recollects John Jeffryes served in the Guard during the Revolution. He thinks during the whole service of the Guard; is confident he served as much as 2 years. This deponent was in the guard service from the time of its formation until its service expired, and believes that John Jeffryes was also. "We were sometimes at the Southern and sometimes at the Northern extremity of the coast, as our services were required. We had a good deal of skirmishing with the Refugees and British at different times whenever they attempted to land from the vessels." This deponent receives a pension from the state of New Jersey for his service in the Egg Harbour Guard during the Revolution.

Signed ---Thompson Price (*signed with an "X"*)

Affirmed and subscribed before me the date above.

Signed --- Michael C. Fisher

I, Michael Fisher, one of the Judges of Inferior Court of Common Pleas, of the County of Gloucester, before whom the above affidavit was taken. I do hereby certify that I believe the above named informant Thompson Price to be a credible witness, and that his affidavit is worthy of full credit and belief.

Witness my hand this 25th day of February, 1833

Signed --- Michael C. Fisher

I, John Smallwood, Clerk of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas, of the county of Gloucester, do hereby certify that Michael C. Fisher, Esquire, before whom the above affidavit was taken, is one of the Judges of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas, of said county, duly commissioned and affirmed, and that the name "Michael C. Fisher" thereto subscribed to the proper handwriting of the said Michael C. Fisher.

Witness my hand and Seal of Office, the 25th day of February, 1833 --- Smallwood, CLK

Gloucester County: On this 20th day of February 1833, before me, the subscriber, one of the Judges of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas, in and of the county aforesaid, personally came James Somers, who being duly affirmed according to Law, sayeth that he recollects very distinctly the Egg Harbor Guard. He recollects seeing John Jeffryes in service in the Guard. He has seen him in service and building 2 forts at the mouth of Egg Harbor River within 100-200 yards after the area of this office; maybe further. He knows from personal observation of his actual service in the Guard for at least 2 years, and believes that he served as much as 3 years, although from the length of time elapsed, he will not affirm positively that length of service. He recollects the officers of the Guard were both Robert Taylor and Richard Somers, Captains Samuel Snell, Robert Snell (who was killed), and John Somers. This informant served at short

periods in the Guard whilst in his immediate neighborhood, at which times John Jeffryes also served. This officiant cannot recollect so distinctly, the dates of the above service of John Jeffryes, as to be able to specify them. This officiant is upwards of 71 years of age, and lives at Somers Point in this county, where he was bred and born, and where much of this service of the Egg Harbor Guard was required and performed. --- Signed, James Somers

Affirmed and subscribed before me the date above --- Michael C. Fisher

I, Michael C. Fisher, one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas, of the County of Gloucester, before whom the within affidavit was taken, do hereby certify that I am well acquainted with the officiant James Somers; that he is a wealthy and respectable citizen of this county, and that his affidavit is entitled to full credit and belief. Witness my hand this 25th day of June 1833 --- Signed, Michael C. Fisher

I, John Smallwood, of the Court of Common Pleas, of the County of Gloucester, do hereby certify that Michael C. Fisher, Esquire, before whom the written affidavit was taken, is one of the Judges of the said court, duly commissioned and affirmed, and that the name thereto subscribed is the proper handwriting of him, the said Michael C. Fisher.

Witness my hand and Seal of Office, this 25th day of February, in the year of our Lord, 1833. Signed --- Smallwood, CLK

Gloucester County: On the 21st day of January AD 1833, before me, Ephraim Miller, one of the Judges of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas, of the said county, personally appeared John Jeffryes, the same person who has sworn and subscribed to the following declaration, who being duly sworn according to Law, Faith, that the whole length of time that he served during the Revolutionary War and whilst in regular organized Corps, was 4 years and 2 weeks, during which time he served as a Private in the following companies: 4 months and a half in a Company commanded by Captain William Price in Colonel Richard Somers' Regiment; one month under Captain M. Somers in Col. Richard Somers' Regt.; 2 months under Captain Robert Snell in Colonel Richard Somers' Regt; and 5 months under Captain David Weatherby in the Flying Camp in Colonel Potter's or Colonel Taylor's Regiment; and 3 years in what was called "The Egg Harbor Guard" and for which service of 4 years and 2 weeks he claimed a pension.

Signed --- John Jeffryes

Sworn and subscribed to the date above before Ephraim Miller.

Gloucester County: On the 21 day of January, 1833, before me, Ephraim Miller, one of the Judges of The Inferior Court of Common Pleas of said County, personally appeared James Steelman of said county, aged 74 years and upwards, who being duly sworn according to law, saith that he is well acquainted with John Jeffreys, and knew him during the War of the Revolution, and this deponent further saith that the said John Jeffreys served a 5 month tour of duty in Captain David Weatherby's Company in the Flying Camp he believes, and the reason of his belief are as follows: Richard Steelman, the brother of this deponent, was an officer in said Company, and he and the said John Jeffreys went away together and said that were going to join Captain Weatherby's Company; they were gone from home several months, and when they returned they spoke about being in Captain David Weatherby's company, and this deponent remembers hearing them speak about being in that Company at many different times since, and he has very little doubt but that they both belonged to said company and served in it for 5 months.

Signed --- James Steelman (*signed with an "X"*)

From the subscribed date above before, Ephraim Miller.

Gloucester: I, John Smallwood, Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, of said county, do certify that Ephraim Miller, Esquire, before whom the foregoing affidavits were made, is one of the Judges of said Court, duly commissioned and affirmed that the signature of the said Judge hereto subscribed is genuine. Witness my hand and seal. January 21, 1833.

Signed --- Smallwood CLK (*clerk*)

State of New Jersey, County of Gloucester:

On this 15th day of October, 1832, personally appeared in open Court before the Honorable Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, for the said county of Gloucester, now sitting John Jeffries, a resident of the said county of Gloucester, and state of New Jersey, of and said aged 75 years on the 14th day of September last, who being duly sworn according to Law, doth on this oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefits of the Act of Congress, passed June 7, 1832, entitled "an act supplementary to an act for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the Revolution." That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated:

"About the month of August 1775, I was called out under Captain William Price and Lieutenant Samuel Springer. We went to the Forks of Little Egg Harbour River, in the county of Gloucester, and State of New Jersey, where we quartered under the command of Colonel Richard Somers. We remained out but 2 weeks and did but little duty other than keeping guard. I was then discharged."

"In the month of July 1776 I was drafted in Captain John Somers' Company in Colonel Richard and Somers' Battalion, and my father served in my place as a substitute. They went to Trenton, or to Amboy, I do not recollect which, for one month.

In October 1776, I entered as a Volunteer in Captain John Somers' Company in Colonel Richard Somers' Battalion. We met at Somers Point at the mouth of Great Egg Harbour River, in the county of Gloucester, where we quartered. Did no other duty than keeping up the guard. Then discharged after a month's service.

Some time in December 1776 was again called out under Captain Robert Snell in Colonel Somers' Battalion. Went to Somers Point again, on guard, for one month; was discharged when my time expired. The latter end of September 1777 (I think) I was again out under Captain William Price and Lieutenant Samuel Springer, to Woodbury, in Gloucester County; we were discharged after about 2 weeks of service, and I returned home. This was in Colonel Somers' Battalion.

About the last of January, 1777, I again entered the service under Captain Price in Colonel Richard Somers' Battalion, met at Mays Landing, in the county of Gloucester, and marched from there to Haddonfield in the said county, about 40 miles. Then to Philadelphia, where we were quartered for a few days, then marched through Bristol to Trenton, through Princeton to Somerset, to the Raritan, about 15 miles above New Brunswick, where we encamped after about 2 weeks spent in the service.

I enlisted in Captain David Weatherby's Company in Colonel Taylor's Battalion, or Colonel Potter's. I belonged to the Flying Camp. I enlisted for 5 months - was under Lieutenant Richard Higbee, and Richard Steelman was Ensign. We marched to Somerset under command of Ensign Steelman as Captain, then to New Brunswick where we had a skirmish with the Picket Guard of the British Army, took some prisoners. Do not recollect how many; lost none of our men. I was in no considerable engagement with the enemy during the 5 months. I was discharged and went home.

June 1778 I volunteered in Captain Robert Snell's and Colonel Richard Somers' Battalion. Met at Colonel Doughty's near Bargaintown in Gloucester County. Marched from there to the Camp of the Refugees on the shore. Had a pretty sharp contest with them, and succeeded in taking 25 or 30 prisoners and one boat with their Captain, whose name was Turner. We had no ivory with us, and after marching them about a mile to a house for the purpose of securing them, they rose on the Guard, but we subdued them again and tied them and took them about 10 miles to Mays Landing; from there they were sent to Prison. Turner, I believe, escaped along the way. I was discharged.

In August 1778, we were again called out under Captain William Price in Colonel Somers' Battalion. We met at Chestnut Neck on Little Egg Harbor river in Gloucester County, New Jersey. There were several British vessels in Little Egg Harbour Inlet; they landed a company of men on Bass River who did much mischief in burning vessels, houses, forage, and in plundering the inhabitants. The vessels lay then about a month in going out, one of the ships grounded on the outer bar, and they set her on fire, and blew her up. We were released after a month's service.

September 1778 I again entered the service under Captain Price and Colonel Somers at Somers Point. We built a fort there by direction I think of Colonel Proctor, who was there at that time. I served one month and was discharged.

The latter end of October 1778, I volunteered in what was called the Egg Harbor Guard, whose duty was to guard the coast from Great Egg Harbor River to Sandy Hook. Served one year and was discharged. Our officers were Captain Samuel Snell and Colonel Robert Taylor.

In October 1779, I again entered the same service under the same officers and was discharged after serving one year.

The Service in The Guard was not regular. We had a great deal of marching and skirmishing, which I cannot recollect. We went sometimes along the seashore by land, and sometimes by sea.

In 1780, I entered again in the Guard Service and served one year.

We went in pursuit of the British Refugees and Tories, as we had information of their incursions along the coast, as far north as Staten Island. I remember going with Captain Babcock in a boat to Barnegat in Monmouth County in pursuit of John Bacon, who was a notorious refugee and murdered and plundered Andrew Steelman, and had wounded Lieutenant David Scull, and had done much other mischief. We found Bacon's residence but did not meet with him.

On another occasion, we took a refugee's trading boat part loaded with tar and cranberries. We took, threw out, and burnt the boat, and then returned home.

I was born in the county of Gloucester, in Great Egg Harbour, New Jersey, on the 14th day of September 1757. I have no record of my age. I have seen my age in a book, but I do not know where the book is now. I was living when called into service in the township of Egg Harbour, Gloucester County, New Jersey, and have lived there ever since.

I was drafted once, but did not go. My father went in my place. I volunteered at all the other times that I was in the service.

Colonel Proctor was at Egg Harbour. Col. Potter and Col. Taylor were at the River Raritan. I did not see George Washington at Somerset, but I heard that he was there when I was there. I saw General Newcomb at Woodbury. I saw Col. Proctor's Regiment of Artillery at Chestnut Neck at Somers Point in Gloucester County, Col. Taylor's Regiment at the same place, General Newcomb's Regiment in Woodbury.

I never received a written discharge except from Captain Weatherby, when I was in the 5 month's service; this has been lost a long time since.

I am acquainted with Major John R. Scull, Dr. M. D. Canfield (*Mahlon Canfield*), Daniel Baker, Esquire, Enoch Doughty, Esquire, and many others in my neighborhood, Gideon Leeds formerly Custom House Officer at Egg Harbour.”

Signed --- John Jeffryes

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Sworn and subscribed the date above.

Signed --- Ephraim Miller

We, Jesse Smith and Jacob Glover, both residing in the county of Gloucester, hereby certify that we are well acquainted with John Jeffryes who has subscribed and sworn to the above declaration, that we believe him to be seventy-five years of age, that he is respected and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a soldier of the Revolution, and that we concur in that opinion.

Sworn and subscribed the day and year aforesaid,

Signed --- Jacob Glover

Signed --- Jesse Smith

Affirmed and subscribed October 1832,

Signed --- Ephraim Miller

And the said Court do hereby declare their opinion, after the investigation of the matter and after putting the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department, that the above named applicant was a Revolutionary soldier and served as he states. And the court further certifies that it appears to them that Jesse Smith, Esquire, and Jacob Glover, Esquire, who have signed the preceding certificate, are residents in the said county of Gloucester, and are highly respectable individuals, the one filling the Office of Surrogate, and the other, the Sheriff of the said county, and that their statement is entitled to credit.

Signed --- Ephraim Miller

I, John Smallwood, Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, of the said County of Gloucester, do hereby certify that the foregoing contains the proceedings of the said court in the matter of the application of John Jeffryes for a pension.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and Seal of Office, the 15th day of October, 1832.

Signed --- Smallwood, CLK

I, Ephraim Miller, one of the Judges of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas of the County of Gloucester, before whom the following affidavit of James Steelman was made, do certify that I am well acquainted with the said James Steelman, he is respectable citizen of this county, and a person of credibility, and that his affidavit is worthy of credit and belief. Witness my hand this 8th day of January, 1833.

Signed --- Ephraim Miller

The State of New Jersey, Gloucester County, doth remembered that on the 13th day of October AD 1832, before me the subscriber, one of the Judges of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas, of the County of Gloucester, personally appeared James Steelman of the said County aged 74 years and upwards, who being duly sworn according to Law saith that he was well acquainted with John Jeffryes and was well

acquainted with him during the Revolutionary War; that this deponent and the said John Jeffryes served a considerable length of time during the said war, in the same company, under the same officers.

That the first time they served together in the war was in the month of August 1775 in a company commanded by Captain William Price in Colonel Somers' Regiment.

"We marched to Little Egg Harbour River to the Forks, and remained there until discharged."

The next time they were out together was in the month of October, 1776, under Capt. John Somers in Col. Richard Somers' Battalion.

"We were marched to Somers Point and remained there one month and were discharged.

The next time we were out together was in December, 1776, in a company commanded by Captain Robert Snell in Col. Somers' Battalion. We were stationed during this tour at Somers Point; remained there one month and were discharged.

The next time we were out together was in September, 1777, under Captain Price in Col. Somers' Battalion. We marched to Woodbury where we quartered in the Friends Meeting House. General Newcomb commanded during the time we lay in Woodbury. The Battle of Brandywine was fought; we heard the firing quite plainly. This service lasted one month.

The next time we were out together was in a company commanded by Captain Robert Snell, in June 1778, in Col. Richard Somers' Regiment. During this tour, we had a pretty severe skirmish with the Refugees on Egg Harbour Shore. We took 25 or 30 prisoners; among them was their captain, whose name was Turner. During this period Captain Snell was killed by one of his own men named Wells. Wells was on guard, and Captain Snell went to relieve guard. He did not give Wells the countersign, and he shot him. This was in the night. After that, his father, Samuel Snell, took command of the Company.

The next time we were out together was in the month of August 1778, under Capt. William Price, in Col. Somers' Battalion. We marched to Chestnut Neck on Little Egg Harbour River, where there were a number of British vessels lying in the Bay. One of them in going out grounded, and they blew her up. This service lasted one month.

The next time we were out together was in the month of September 1778, under the command of Capt. Price, in Col. Somers' Battalion. We were quartered at Somers Point, where we built a fort that was laid out by Col. Proctor. This service lasted one month, and we were discharged.

The next service that we performed together was in the "Egg Harbour Guard" so called. The service lasted from October 1778 till October 1781, under Captain Samuel Snell, in Col. Robert Taylor's Regiment. During this period we had hard duty to perform, a good deal of skirmishing with the Refugees. Signed --- James Steelman (*signed with an "X"*)

Sworn and Subscribed OCT 15, 1832

Signed --- Ephraim Miller

I, John Smallwood, of the Court of Common Pleas, of the county of Gloucester, do hereby certify that Ephraim Miller, Esquire, before whom the above affidavit appears to have made, is one of the Judges of the said court, commissioned and affirmed, and that the signature of the said Judge thereto subscribed is genuine. Witness my hand and Seal this 15th day of October, 1832.

Signed --- Smallwood, CLK

-END-

*Correspondence then follows, and within that correspondence, it states:

John Jeffreys
Certificate No. 6946
Issued: 11 MAR 1833
Rate: \$80.00 per annum